

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) A medical device to treat the heart, comprising:  
a plurality of spring elements formed from nitinol and adapted to impart a continuous compressive force of less than 3 mm Hg to a portion on an outer surface of the heart during diastole and systole; and  
the spring elements being configured to be delivered minimally invasively.

55. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are self-sizing.

Claim 56. (Cancel)

57. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are self-tensioning.

Claims 58 and 59. (Cancel)

60. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements have a compliance that increases as a function of increased stretch.

61. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements have a compliance that does not decrease as a function of increased stretch.

62. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are formed into strips.

63. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are formed into strips that are compressible to a low profile, minimally invasive delivery diameter.

Claims 64 and 65. (Canceled)

66. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are formed from ~~Nitinol~~ a nickel-titanium alloy.

67. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are elastic and have a deformed shape and a recovered shape when a load is applied and removed respectively.

68. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access between the patient's ribs.

69. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access subcostally.

70. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the spring elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access percutaneously through the skin.